MARVEL

#12

Steve ★ Rogers
CAPTAIN AMERICA®

I KNOW YOUR SECRET!

SPENCER
PINA
GUINALDO
ROSENBERG

Super-Soldier. Avenger. Agent of Hydra. He is...

Steve Rogers CAPTAIN AMERICA

Steve Rogers' reality has been secretly rewritten by Kobik, a sentient Cosmic Cube acting under the influence of the Red Skull. In Steve's new history, a Hydra agent named Elisa Sinclair enrolled Steve in a school where he was trained to believe in Hydra's ideals--and befriended a young Helmut Zemo. The leaders of Hydra recognized Steve's promise and gave him a secret mission: return to the U.S. to become the first Super-Soldier--and consequently, Hydra's ultimate spy.

In the present, Steve has gained a powerful ally by convincing Zemo that the version of history where they were friends really took place, and that the version Zemo remembered was a lie. But his number of enemies is growing as well--after being replaced by Steve as the Director of S.H.I.E.L.D., Maria Hill is on the run, while his friend Bucky Barnes is still hiding out with Kobik, who could reveal Steve's secret at any time. And Taskmaster and Black Ant just stumbled across security footage of Captain America saying "Hail Hydra"...

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UNIVERSAL NEWSREEL

COVERS WORLD WIDE EVENTS

DATELINE: AUGUST 28, 1942! BREAKING NEWS FROM THE FRONT LINES--

--WHERE A NEW HERO JOINS THE ALLIED FORCES--**CAPTAIN AMERICA!**

THANKS TO THE **SUPER-SOLDIER PROGRAM** AND THE GENIUS MIND OF **DOCTOR ARNIM ZOLA,** A WEAK, SICKLY BUSBOY WAS TRANSFORMED--

--INTO A **FIGHTING MAN** UNLIKE **ANY OTHER!**

ALONGSIDE HIS BEST PAL, **BUCKY**, HE'S BRINGING **HOPE** TO OUR BOYS--

--AND GIVING **HELL** TO THE **NAZI SCUM!**

TOGETHER THEY'RE LEADING THE CHARGE AGAINST THE REICH--

--AND THEIR ALLIES IN THE EVIL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS **HYDRA!**

WHOSE **BARON HEINRICH ZEMO** LEADS AN ARMY OF TERROR--

--AND DEVELOPS AN ENTIRE ENEMY SUPER-SOLDIER SQUADRON OF HIS OWN!

NOT JUST THAT-- BUT IN GERMANY, WHISPERS OF A NEW PLAYER--A VICIOUS MADMAN KNOWN AS THE **RED SKULL**-- HAVE EMERGED, BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE AXIS EFFORT!

BUT NEVER FEAR, DEAR VIEWER--WE'LL ALWAYS COME OUT AHEAD IN THE END--

--NOW THAT WE HAVE **CAPTAIN AMERICA** ON OUR SIDE!

NOW.

From the journal of Doctor Erik Selvig:

These last few months have been quite the whirlwind.

My job once had been watching after Kobik--the living embodiment of the Cosmic Cube--supposedly on behalf of S.H.I.E.L.D.

--at which point I came to serve someone new.

I have grown to admire this man who saved me, and I believe in what he is trying to do for the glory of Hydra--

--but even he makes mistakes sometimes.

But in truth I served the Red Skull and Hydra--until he tired of me and ordered my death, that is--

AH, THERE HE IS. DOCTOR SELVIG--

CAPTAIN...

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE A NEW ALLY. ***HELMUT ZEMO*** HAS AGREED TO JOIN OUR CAUSE--AND I COULD NOT BE MORE PROUD.

NOW, I HAVE TO GO DEAL WITH SOME ***S.H.I.E.L.D.*** BUSINESS--BUT I WANT YOU TO ASSIST HIM IN ANY WAY HE DEEMS NECESSARY. WE HAVE A LOT TO GET DONE, AND VERY LITTLE TIME IN WHICH TO ACCOMPLISH IT.

THANK YOU, STEVEN. AND DOCTOR, BEFORE WE BEGIN, I'D LIKE TO ***APOLOGIZE*** FOR ALL THAT EARLIER UNPLEASANTNESS--

DO YOU MEAN DRAGGING ME THROUGH THE HIMALAYAS ON A LEASH AS YOUR PRISONER? OR PLANNING TO KILL ME AFTER YOU UNCOVERED ALL THE SECRETS OF THE COSMIC CUBE?

CAN WE SAY ***BOTH?***

CAPTAIN, YOU CANNOT EXPECT ME TO WORK WITH THIS MAN!

I ***CAN*** AND I ***DO,*** DOCTOR. WHATEVER DIFFERENCES THE TWO OF YOU MAY HAVE HAD BEFORE, IT'S TIME TO PUT THEM ASIDE.

WE ARE ON THE ***SAME TEAM*** NOW. AND IT'S WE FEW AGAINST THE MANY. SO, DOCTOR, I EXPECT YOU TO PUT YOUR LOYALTY TO HYDRA ABOVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL GRIEVANCES.

AND ***YOU,*** HELMUT. I UNDERSTAND THE DOCTOR MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO COME AROUND, AND THAT MAY COME TO FRUSTRATE YOU, BUT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU MAY WANT TO--

--DO NOT VAPORIZE HIM WHILE I'M GONE.

HMPH.

Personal Log of Maria Hill:

Okay, I will admit it--I'm desperate.

Since getting kicked out of S.H.I.E.L.D., I've been trying to find something--anything--that can get me back in the action--

Which led me here--to Bagalia--the nation of super-criminals.

Got a dark net invitation, some anon making big promises. But like everything in Bagalia--

--it's probably a trap.

TASKMASTER!

HEYA, MARIA. LONG TIME, NO--

--TRY TO KILL ME. @#!$ NEOCONS.

I JUST WANNA TALK!

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THE MAN, HILL--

--YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

O'GRADY?!

--WE CAME HERE TO MAKE A ***DEAL.*** WE GOT THINGS WE ***WANT,*** AND WE GOT THINGS YOU ***NEED.***

HEY--IT'S THE ***BLACK ANT.*** WE STICK TO ***CODENAMES*** IN BAGALIA.

IDENTITY THEFT IS A REAL PROBLEM AROUND HERE.

RELAX, MARIA--

SERIOUSLY? WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY NEED FROM YOU TWO INCOMPETENT MORONS?

INCOMPETENT? CAN I JUST POINT OUT BOTH OF US ARE FORMER ***S.H.I.E.L.D. EMPLOYEES?***

S'TRUE--THOUGH THE ORGANIZATION AIN'T EXACTLY WHAT IT ***USED*** TO BE.

HOPE YOU AT LEAST GOT A DECENT REFERENCE.

YEAH, I APPRECIATE YOU NOTICING I GOT FIRED. SO UNLESS THIS OFFER IS A MONSTER.COM LISTING--

BETTER. WHAT IF WE TOLD YOU WE HAD A SLAM-DUNK, NO-LOSE WAY FOR YOU TO GET YOUR OLD JOB BACK?

"--CAPTAIN AMERICA."

aily Bugle

SHIELD SHAKE UP:
HILL FIRED, CAP HIRED

NOT ONLY THAT--BUT YOU GET TO BRING DOWN THE GUY I'M BETTIN' YOU HATE THE ***MOST*** RIGHT NOW--

SORRY I'M LATE, EVERYONE.

DIRECTOR ON DECK!

GONNA TAKE A LITTLE WHILE TO GET USED TO THAT AGAIN. AT EASE, PEOPLE--

--WHAT DO WE HAVE?

YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS ONE--SHOWED UP AT THE ***MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY*** AND STARTED WRECKING THE PLACE...

"...OUR OLD PAL, THE ***AWESOME ANDROID.***"

SO, THE ***MAD THINKER?***

NOT THIS TIME, CAP--BEST I CAN TELL IT'S BEEN REMOTELY ***HACKED,*** CAN'T SAY BY WHO--BUT THEY'RE USING A REALLY SOPHISTICATED VIRUS THAT'S BEEN FLOATING AROUND ATTACKING A.I.

LAST MONTH IT INFECTED A FLEET OF ***DOOMBOTS,*** MADE THEM ALL TWERK IN ***TRAFALGAR SQUARE.*** THINK IT WAS AN ANTI-GLOBALISM THING.

WE'VE GOT A TEAM OF ***HULKBUSTERS*** EN ROUTE, ETA 12 MINUTES.

THAT'S TOO LONG--

"--ESPECIALLY WHEN WE'RE ALREADY ON THE SCENE."

WHAT? I HAD THEM PUT IT IN ***LAST WEEK.***

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME-- YOU KNOW THIS ISN'T THE JOB ANYMORE, RIGHT?!

OH, I DON'T KNOW, SHARON--

--MAYBE I'D LIKE TO BE THE ***NON-TRADITIONALIST*** FOR ONCE.

I'LL BE BACK BEFORE YOU KNOW IT. AND RICK--GET ME A FULL REPORT ON THIS A.I. VIRUS.

"YOU'RE SAYING-- WHATEVER THIS IS THAT YOU THINK YOU HAVE--"

--IT COULD BRING DOWN STEVE ROGERS--

OKAY, ASSUMING THAT CHECKS OUT--WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR IT?

OH, IT ***WILL.*** THIS IS VIDEO PROOF. INDISPUTABLE. ONCE THE WORLD SEES IT, ROGERS WON'T JUST BE OUT AT S.H.I.E.L.D.--HE'LL BE FACIN' THE ***FIRING SQUAD.***

AND IT'S 100 PERCENT ***REAL.*** TEST IT HOWEVER YA WANT.

WELL, COME ON--THIS IS ***CAPTAIN AMERICA.*** RECORDING LIKE THIS, IT'S BIGGER THAN THE NIXON TAPES.

BIGGER THAN THE ***KARDASHIAN*** TAPES.

GOTTA BE WORTH ***BILLIONS.***

TENS OF BILLIONS.

UH, FELLAS--I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK THE SEVERANCE PACKAGE FOR DISGRACED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IS, BUT--I FLEW ***ECONOMY*** TO GET HERE.

YEAH, WE FIGURED. BUT WHEN YOU'RE DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., YOU GOT THE BIGGEST PIGGY BANK THERE IS--***MILITARY BUDGETS.***

YOU EVER SEE THAT MOVIE ***WAR DOGS?*** 'BOUT THOSE TWO IDIOTS WHO GOT FILTHY RICH UNDERBIDDING ON WEAPONS CONTRACTS? WE WANNA BE THAT.

WELL, EXCEPT FOR THE ***UNDERBIDDING*** PART.

YEAH, WE JUST WANNA BE THE TWO IDIOTS. OH, AND ***FILTHY RICH.***

WE WANT RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL ON EVERY ARMS DEAL THAT COMES ACROSS YOUR DESK. AT A 30--NO, HELL, LET'S MAKE IT A **35** PERCENT MARKUP.

IT'S GONNA BE LIKE WHEN YOU WERE A KID AND THEY TOLD ABOUT THOSE EIGHT-THOUSAND-DOLLAR TOILET SEATS IN THE PENTAGON--

THAT STORY WAS NEVER TRUE.

WELL-- IT IS ***NOW,*** SISTER.

I'VE NEVER BEEN A FAN OF SURPRISES. I GUESS IT'S THE PLANNER IN ME.

OF COURSE, YOU CAN NEVER ANTICIPATE EVERYTHING--

--AND LIFE LOVES TO THROW NEW PROBLEMS YOUR WAY.

BUT I'VE LEARNED IN ALL MY YEARS DOING THIS THAT IF YOUR STRATEGY WAS SOUND TO BEGIN WITH--

--THE CURVEBALLS REALLY SHOULDN'T DO YOU IN.

THE KEY IS ANTICIPATION--

YOU HOLD THEM OFF, BUCKY-- I'LL GET INSIDE, FIND THOSE PRISONERS!

--AND DETERMINATION, I SUPPOSE.

FINALLY--

YOU KNOW I HATE IT WHEN YOU KEEP ME WAITING.

HELMUT!

THIS THING WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN MY WAY--

WASN'T

PART

OF

THE PLAN.

AND I'LL ADMIT I'M STRUGGLING TO ADJUST.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WENT FOR IT!

'COURSE SHE DID. HILL WOULD SLIT HER OWN MOTHER'S THROAT TO GET BACK IN THAT CHAIR.

IT DOES LOOK LIKE A COMFY CHAIR. MAN, WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH ALL THIS MONEY-- HOW DO YOU EVEN BUY AN ISLAND? ARE THEY ON ZILLOW?

I'LL JUST BE GLAD WHEN THE DAMN DEAL IS DONE. HILL'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE ANY MINUTE WITH THE CONTRACTS-- SOONER WE GET RID OF THIS THING, THE BETTER.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. AND HEY, IF THIS ALL KEEPS HYDRA FROM TAKING OVER THE WORLD, I CALL THAT A BONUS. I MIGHT BE A MERCENARY SUPER VILLAIN, BUT I AIN'T A RACIST.

I FEAR YOU MEN HAVE BEEN LIED TO.

THAT IS NOT THE REAL HYDRA, YOU SEE--

--BUT NOW I WILL BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU HYDRA'S TRUE FACE.

HURRY, CLOSE THE DOOR. YOU'RE SURE THAT BRAT ***BUCKY*** DIDN'T SEE YOU? IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF WE HAD TO ***ELIMINATE*** HIM--

STOP IT, HELMUT--

--BUCKY'S A GOOD KID. HE'S JUST BEEN...***BRAINWASHED.*** LIKE ALL THE ***REST*** OF THEM. BUT HE SHOULD GET THE CHANCE TO RENOUNCE ALL THAT--

--ONCE WE WIN THIS WAR.

HM-- AND ON THAT FRONT--

HERE IT IS. TROOP DEPLOYMENTS, NEW SUPPLY ROUTES--AND EVERYTHING I COULD GET ON THE ALLIES' NEW SUPER-WEAPON.

STEVEN, YOU--YOU ARE ***INCREDIBLE!*** HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO ***GET*** ALL THIS--?

THEIR LEADERSHIP IS SO CORRUPT, SO PETTY--THEY'LL PUT THEIR TRUST IN JUST ABOUT ***ANYONE*** WHO ISN'T STAINED BY THEIR COWARDICE.

BUT NONE OF IT WILL MATTER IF WE DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR ALL THIS--HOW IS ZOLA'S ***SUPER-SOLDIER PROGRAM*** COMING ALONG?

FOR A MAN WHO DIED OF A HEART ATTACK IN AMERICAN CUSTODY, BETTER THAN COULD BE EXPECTED, I SUPPOSE--

--BUT STILL ***SLOW.*** HE WON'T ADMIT IT, BUT HE'S STRUGGLING TO REPLICATE ERSKINE'S FORMULA ON ANYONE BESIDES YOU. THE NEW SOLDIERS ARE MORE LIMITED, MORE AGGRESSIVE--AND THEY HAVE A BAD HABIT OF DYING ON THE TABLE.

HOW MANY ACTIVE?

STILL FEWER THAN A ***DOZEN.***

DAMN IT-- YOU NEED TO GET ME OUT OF HERE, HELMUT-- GET ME FIGHTING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THIS THING--

NO, STEVEN-- YOU ARE ***ALREADY*** THE BEST WEAPON WE HAVE, RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE. OF COURSE, THAT MAY CHANGE SOON...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I WANTED TO TELL YOU IN PERSON-- I AM GOING AWAY FOR A BIT TO HELP MY FATHER ON A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION, SECURING A PIECE OF EXPERIMENTAL TECHNOLOGY THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING--

"--ONE THAT COULD TURN THE TIDE OF THIS WAR."

BUT BEFORE I GO--I HAVE A ***MISSION*** FOR YOU AS WELL, OLD FRIEND. ONE I AM QUITE UNSURE HOW YOU WILL FEEL ABOUT--

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

IT TURNS OUT YOU ARE NOT THE ***ONLY*** WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING. HYDRA HAS A SPY OF OUR OWN IN ITS MIDST.

AND IT IS SOMEONE WE ***BOTH KNOW*** QUITE WELL--IN FACT, SHE IS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT YOU TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE-- THE WITCH.

...ELISA?

SO, YES, SURPRISES--

STILL NOT IN LOVE WITH THEM.

FOOM!

S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND--THIS IS THE *DIRECTOR*. TARGET NEUTRALIZED--

--BUT I'M PRETTY SURE HE JUST TRASHED MY OWN DISPLAY.

Now, I must admit--

--Zemo's new attitude confuses me.

For weeks, Captain Rogers has been trying to get through to him--

--telling him stories about another life, where they were the closest of friends.

This itself is not strange.

In Pleasant Hill, all of the prisoners had their reality rewritten by Kobik-- but the effects were isolated to themselves.

What if Kobik did something different this time?

Something more profound?

That might explain why a zealot like Zemo is predisposed to believe in the Captain's tale--

--but what else could it mean for this world? For reality itself?

What new truths might emerge?

UNBELIEVABLE. MAKE ME WAIT A **WHOLE DAMNED HOUR?** AFTER I PULL ALL THIS TOGETHER FOR YOU? POOR **CUSTOMER SERVICE,** TASKMASTER--

--THIS IS WHY PEOPLE **OUTSOURCE.**

HEY--WAIT-- FRRRR--THAT'S OUR--NN--MONEY! I WAS GONNA BUY AN **APPLE WATCH!**

IS THAT ALL YOU CARE FOR? **MONEY?**

I WOULD HAVE YOU DREAM OF GREATER THINGS.

NN-- LIKE THE **GOLD** APPLE WATCH?

YOU'VE INTERFERED IN SOMETHING FAR LARGER THAN YOURSELVES TODAY, THE BOTH OF YOU. MOST MEN WHO FIND THEMSELVES STANDING BETWEEN ME AND MY PLANS ARE REDUCED TO THE DUST FROM WHENCE THEY CAME--

--BUT I **LIKE** YOU TWO. YOU'RE **FUNNY.** AND I THINK YOU CAN BE OF SOME USE TO ME.

HHHRR-- YEAH? AND WHO THE HELL ARE **YOU,** LADY?!

HM. I THOUGHT THE SUIT WOULD BE **FAMILIAR** TO YOU--

--I AM MADAME HYDRA.

BUT SINCE WE ARE GOING TO BE WORKING TOGETHER SO CLOSELY FROM NOW ON, GENTLEMEN--

--YOU MAY CALL ME ELISA.

ELISA SINCLAIR.

NEXT

THE STORY EXPANDS IN

THUNDERBOLTS #11

UNCANNY AVENGERS #22

ZONE